

4

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/688,281

Examiner

Michael Y. Won

Applicant(s)

OKO ET AL

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


HOSAIN ALAM

PROSECUTORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jon L. Roberts, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 31293) on April 21, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for influencing dynamic community shared elements of broadcast content comprising:

a plurality of participants obtaining electronic votes that they may later cast, wherein the electronic votes are obtained independent of a poll;

a polling server periodically polling the plurality of participants over a network for their opinion concerning the [content of programming] broadcast content;

the plurality of participants casting their respective electronic votes concerning the [content of programming] broadcast content via the network;

the polling server receiving the electronic votes of the participants, tallying the electronic votes and reporting those results to a content server;

content server receiving the votes and retrieving content based upon the opinion expressed by a majority of electronic votes; and

delivering the retrieved content to the participants.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-33 are allowable over the prior art made of record and in light of Applicant's amendments and arguments presented in the amendments filed November 17, 2004 and February 2, 2005.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest, "broadcast content comprising... wherein the electronic votes are obtained independent of a poll" in combination with "the polling server receiving the electronic votes of the participants, tallying the electronic votes and reporting those results to a content server; content server receiving the votes and retrieving content based upon the opinion expressed by a majority of electronic votes; and delivering the retrieved content to the participants" or "wherein the vote may be later cast and wherein the electronic vote is independent of an opportunity to select a choice" in combination with "receiving the electronic vote from the participant device, tallying the electronic vote, and reporting a result to a content server; and retrieving a selected choice from the group of choices based upon the result" and therefore the claims are found to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Art Unit: 2155

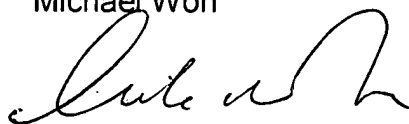
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Won



April 18, 2005


HOSAIN ALAM
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER